

Winter 2009

Issue 3



# Gateway To Glory Ministries

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Founded by: Steve and Robin Malek

## “Give and it shall be given...” (means so much more)

Steve and I have been asked many times why we do what we do. Our answer is simply, “Because the Lord told us to do it.” We have found that by giving ourselves to the Master’s will, we have been given much in return. We are given the privilege of seeing the transforming work of Christ in the lives of those who are ready to be molded into His image. We get to see the working of His grace, not only in our own lives, but in the lives of the men who come to Gateway To Glory.

There are many people involved in this ministry and they can also attest to this “give and it shall be given” principle. Men who volunteer their time doing the in-house Bible studies, say that they walk away blessed by the residents’ desire to learn and the honest questions they ask.

The mentors that take the time to come alongside these men also see the principle in action. As the residents see that they have mentors they can trust, confide in, and who will answer the tough questions with honesty and integrity, they soon gain the confidence to trust in Christ. The mentors get to see their mentees grow spiritually.

And the church itself- the body of Christ- as it opens its arms and hearts to the hurting, lost and broken, is allowed to see Christ reaching out from heaven, shining His light and life on those who are seriously seeking the salvation and cleansing that only He can give.

“Give and it shall be given...” I thought that Scripture was referring to money. Man was I ever wrong! It means so much more!



## Spreading Hope and Joy

Did you know the men at Gateway to Glory are learning to take responsibility for themselves by finding jobs, paying rent and paying any other bills or outstanding debts they may have?

Unfortunately, the economic condition in Michigan is making it difficult for them to find jobs. However, the Board of Directors has come up with an idea to help these men.

The men are quite talented with their hands, and with that talent they are making lawn displays for people to buy to proudly display their faith, especially during the holiday seasons. Some people already bought signs at Easter, but now Christmas is upon us. The signs are made out of weatherized wood, are painted in your choice of colors, and come with brackets and mounting poles. Installation

takes only a couple of minutes.

Consider helping the men take responsibility for their lives by purchasing one of these displays.

There are signs already designed (like the ones pictured on the right) or you may make your own design or words.

Remember, these are handmade by the men at Gateway To Glory and are built to last!

Display prices are as follows:

46” letters, your choice of color \$22 per letter

24” letters, your choice of color \$14 per letter

Please call Mike Miller at 586-744-9264 to place your order.

(JOY and HOPE are available only in 46” letters due to the graphic in the “O”. Cost of JOY is \$66.00. Cost of HOPE is \$88.00)

HOPE



**Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. – Matthew 7:14**

## Testimony



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*“The insatiable urge for one more fix, coupled with the shame of what I was doing, left me void of the comfort of His Holy Spirit”*

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It was a cold March morning, nearly six months ago when I finally asked for help. I was at the end of a year long relapse, and without a doubt, at the end of my rope. My wife had divorced me, I could not talk to my children, and I had just discovered that no one in my family was willing to take me in. It had been my third attempt at treatment inside those 12 months and I had just left the program 3 weeks premature. My own father, who loved and supported me all of my life would not even take me in (he still loved me, but my stepmother had had enough)!

The street can be a cold and lonely place. The reality of what my life had become set in with sickening despair. My loved ones often worried. Those dearest to me lamented that my addiction would one day kill me. In a sense, they were right, it had-though not physically. Instead I continued to live, while all around me the life I had, died. My role as dad, husband, son, brother, friend all died. All that I had lived for was gone, yet there I stood, a shell of a man, existing in a self made hell. Up to this point, I didn't even have God to turn to. The insatiable urge for one more fix, coupled with the shame of what I was doing, left me void of the comfort of His Holy Spirit.

At long last, I had truly hit bottom. There, on that cold March morning, I dropped to my knees: “Please Lord Jesus, please help me, because I am dead. I am so afraid! I am so alone! I don't want to die! I need Your help Lord! Please help me Jesus...”

Through a series of “coincidences” I was put into contact with Mike Miller at the Gateway to Glory house. Though there were no openings, he invited me to the house that evening for an interview in the event that something might open up eventually. He also offered to take me to the 12 step meeting at the church that night and perhaps assist me in contacting the homeless shelter. Having nothing to lose, I agreed to meet Mike that evening.

“Do you believe in Jesus?” Mike asked after we had sat down to talk. “Are you willing to go to meetings, church, and Bible study?”

“Absolutely!” I declared.

“One of the guys has just informed me of his decision to leave the house. Welcome home,” Mike said with a smile.

Today, I am proud to be a born again Christian! The Lord, through His magnificent love, has brought me back to life. I have been reconciled with my children and get to see them several times a week. In the stable environment of Gateway to Glory, I am encouraged to grow daily in my walk with the Lord. The house manager, Mike, the owners, Steve and Robin, my mentor Fred, the men of the house and members of the wonderful Bethesda community have blessed me with an abundance of encouragement and support in my new found faith.

~Jesse

## Another way to give

Remember, when you use Goodsearch to do your searches instead of Google, you are helping our cause. At no cost to you, a penny a search is donated to Gateway if you put “Gateway To Glory” in the box below the search box and click “verify”. Thank you for supporting us.



*Goodsearch or  
Goodshop...help our  
cause...tell your friends!*



## From the House Manager

I look at different individuals at the Gateway house and see what happens when they finally let go and watch God work. One man has been here for a while and cannot believe what God is having him do “for His kingdom, of course”. While another has been here about four months, and has already completed what he could not do for himself in years.

Too often we get caught up with the world, forgetting about God, and then we find ourselves in a mess we cannot fix.

## On the Inside, Lookin’ Out

I’ve had a recent experience here at Pugsley Correctional Facility that touched me (“rattled my cage pretty good” is more like it – no pun intended.) It began in July 2007. I was going to trial for a larceny (theft) I had committed. I wasn’t disputing guilt or innocence, but the degree of the crime (specifically, the value of the property I had stolen). If the value of the items came to \$1,000 or more, I would have a felony conviction which carries a sentence of 2 to 20 years, if the value was less then I would serve less time. I was attempting to do some damage control because like any rational person, if I was going to go to jail, I’d rather do a 1 year bit than 2 to 20.

There is no room to tell the whole story here or how the whole thing rolled out, but I will tell you that I had to serve 28½ months before I was eligible for parole.

What I want to tell you about is this: through this time of sitting in jail, going to trial and waiting for the verdict from the court, I went through many ups and downs that I detailed in a spiritual journal. Interestingly, I learned more about and grew closer to God than I had ever been in my life. However, after the court affirmed the original decision (meaning I was going to serve 2 to 20 years) I went through some intense questioning of God and His wisdom.

“How could you let this happen, God?” and “How can this be?” were parts of the one way conversations I had with God

I would like to personally thank all the men who step up and mentor these men. Even when the men in the Gateway house decide to go out on their own, they know where there is stability, and that is found only through God’s mercy and grace. I just thank God for the opportunity to witness and be a part of the transformation in these men’s lives.

We cannot get caught up in ourselves. We need to relax, sit back, and watch the Lord perform miracles!

~Mike

(one way conversations because I was doing all the talking). I was upset and I was hurt. During this time of confusion, I read the parable of the sower in Luke 8. Verses 14-15 spoke to me. I thought to myself, “I need to be good soil...good dirt. Some may judge a convict as a ‘dirt bag’. Well, if I was gonna be a dirt bag, then I was gonna be one for Jesus. That would make me good soil, therefore a good dirtbag.”

To make a long story short, The Lord helped me to understand some things. He is God. He shifts the winds. He sets the ocean’s boundaries where He chooses. He stretched out His hand and pulled me from walking death and abandoned buildings when I wasn’t deserving. He took me as I was a filthy, rag tag person who embraced evil because I didn’t know how to get out of the living hell I was in. So, now, does the clay say to the potter, “What are you making?”

When things happen that I don’t agree with or understand, I learned somewhere along the journey, to say “Hallelujah anyway!”

Stand firm in the Lord, dear friends. Know that God is watching us, protecting us, and loving us always. Resist the devil and put your faith in God no matter what things may look like.

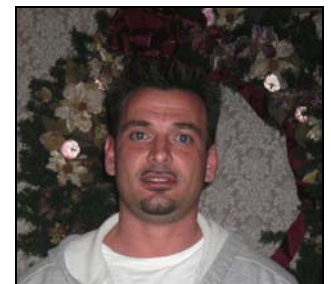
~Nue (*this was written in May. Nue was released in September and is part of the family of God at Bethesda*)



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*“Well, if I was gonna be a dirt bag, then I was gonna be one for Jesus.”*

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## *Life Insurance*

The world offers several types of life insurance policies. There is whole life, universal life, cash value life, and even term life insurance. Most of these also have a savings vehicle attached to them (have you ever wondered why our health insurance or car insurance doesn't have this savings vehicle attached to them?) However, the life insurance I'm talking about here is the kind God offers through His Son, Jesus Christ. John 6:47; *Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.* John 6:54; *Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.* John 11:25; *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."* John 11:26; *And whoever*

*lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? John 17:3; And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

Jesus offers a life insurance policy that can't be bought with money nor can you even earn it through good works. It's free for the asking! However, it doesn't have a savings vehicle attached to it...Instead it's got a fire escape and He is it! Oh, did I mention that it will cost you your life? It's mentioned 5 times in the Gospels, *"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it"*.

Jesus never said it would be easy, just worth it.

*~Because of Him and for Him~Steve*

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### **We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

**[www.gateway2glory.org](http://www.gateway2glory.org)**

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### **Immediate need**

Gateway To Glory is in need of a van to transport the men to church and back home. The current van is running only by the grace of God. Please remember, all donations made to this ministry (including vehicles) are tax deductible as it is a 501(c)3 non-profit ministry.



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